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Dear Friends,

There's nothing like a big winter storm to remind us that we're all in this together. It appears that no matter where you were in Maine, you experienced the effects of the good old fashioned nor' easter that rumbled up the east coast.

We are reminded that we share this place with everyone else who is here. We love it when we hear stories about the outpouring of help that appears when someone is suddenly in need.

But far too often, it seems, we get ourselves siloed and so self-focused that we ignore our common good. Certainly, that's reflective of our current political landscape.

The arts are not separated from our proclivity to silo and self-focus. Despite the collaborative nature of many of our creative disciplines – my background is in theater. As artists, we don't necessarily work and play well with each other. Maybe a good winter storm is what's needed to remind us that we need to look out for each other more often – help a neighbor shovel or take care of those who don't have “a plow guy.”

During the past two weeks, we've had some wonderful grants news for the arts in our state. The NEA has just announced \$750,000 in ARPA awards to seven Maine organizations. That announcement came on the heels of their \$265,000 award to 15 arts projects in Maine.

As you will read in this report, the Maine Arts Commission has approved \$511,667 in ARPA ArtsJobs funding to 48 applicants – organizations and individuals.

Learning of \$1,526,667 coming to our state to support the arts is fantastic news. But, if we work together, speak with a unified voice, and work to help others in our field, it can be just the beginning.

The NEA doesn't share their data with the states, but looking at Maine's ArtsJobs grant process, there is a lot to learn. We received 253 applications seeking \$3,102,805 in support and had the funding to support just 19% of them. That's not enough.

We're launching an in-state campaign to encourage other entities who have ARPA funding to chip in for Maine's culture. We have identified 172 projects seeking \$1,983,938 that our independent review system determined would be funded if we had the money. We're asking the county governments, the Legislature, and the Governor's office to consider bringing some of their ARPA funds to support the recovery of the cultural activity of our state. Based on the budgets included in these 172 applications, an investment of \$1,983,938 will result in a boost in economic activity of \$8,323,476!

This week, we'll begin asking for your help in expressing support for this investment with the decision makers in your community. By working together, we can show that the arts are a critically important reason why so many of us call this state our home.

It's always worth checking with James Baldwin, who understood so much about us. He wrote: "The moment we break faith with one another, the sea engulfs us and the light goes out."

As we dig out, it's also time to dig in... together. Let's go!

-David Greenham

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## **Announcing ARPA Grant Winners**

### **Maine Arts Jobs Grantees**

The Arts Jobs Grant was a one-time funding opportunity made possible by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

With a little over \$500,000 to spend, and a top request amount of \$15,000, the Arts Commission had 152 applications from organizations and another 102 applications from individuals. [Here are the grantees receiving awards](#) totaling \$511,667.

Arts Jobs  
Grantees

### **NEA American Rescue Plan Grantees**

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) recently announced it has recommended awards totaling \$57,750,000 to 567 arts organizations to help the arts and cultural sector recover from the pandemic.

We are pleased to share that these [Maine organizations](#) are receiving an American Rescue Plan grant from the NEA totaling \$750,000.

American Rescue Plan Grantees

### **Craft Apprentice Program** **Mentors & Apprentices Announced**



Tyler Gulden + Rachel Herzer

**c r a f t**  
apprentice  
program

**2022 CYCLE**

### **Craft Apprentice Program** **Mentors & Apprentices Announced**

The Maine Arts Commission, in partnership with the Maine Crafts Association, is thrilled to announce and support five mentor/apprentice pairs selected for the 2022 Craft Apprentice Program.

- Tyler Gulden (mentor) + Rachel Herzer (apprentice): Ceramics
- Emily O'Neil (mentor) + Grace Foxen (apprentice):



Emily O'Neil + Grace Foxen



Siem van der Ven + Jennifer Connor



Alice Seeger + Amanda Affleck



Tim Christensen + Lisa Sheppard

## Textiles

- Siem van der Ven (mentor) + Jennifer Connor (apprentice) Ceramics
- Alice Seeger (mentor) + Amanda Affleck (apprentice): Textiles
- Tim Christensen (mentor) + Lisa Sheppard (apprentice): Ceramics

The Craft Apprentice Program began in 2016 to provide an in-studio educational opportunity for apprentices who demonstrate a commitment to further their abilities as craft artists. They accomplish this through a significant relationship with a mentor artist.

In the fall, we caught up with a team of potters headed by Tim Christensen and apprentice Aidan Fraser. This hardy crew pulled an all-night wood firing at Watershed Center for Ceramic Arts. We are thrilled to share a more intimate look at this enduring craft and the creative entrepreneurship in our state's vibrant arts communities.



Video produced by Ryan Leighton & Cody Mitchell

## Call For Proposals - Percent For Art \$44,500 budget

There's a brand new opportunity to create public art work for Edward Little High School.

The Arts Commission is issuing a Request for





Proposals to design, create and install artwork in the new education facilities with a budget of approximately **\$44,500**. The submission deadline is February 25, 2022.

### Public Art Opportunities

Located in the heart of Auburn, Maine, Edward Little High School has served as a pinnacle to its surrounding community for over 100 years. Learn about the project and the significance of the school mascot "Red Eddie"



New England States Touring (NEST) funds performances, readings, and screenings of work by regional, national, and international artists presented by New England-based nonprofit organizations.

Learn More

The NEST application will be live next week.

**Application deadline: March 8, 2022**

### Changes for the Next New England States Touring (NEST) Grant Application



In response to shifts and challenges for presenting and touring artists' work during the pandemic, there are important changes to the NEST grant guidelines for the March 2022 grant cycle:

- NEST 1, 2, and 3 grants are available in amounts of **up to 60% of the artists' fees** and range from \$500 to \$10,000
- Applications with artist fees under \$2,000 may request the full artist fee
- NEST 3 grants require a **minimum of two (formerly three) presenting organizations** from at least two different states
- Supported grant period is **June 1, 2022-December 31, 2023**.



### Sarah Sockbeson Named a 2021–22 Lunder Institute Senior Fellow

Maine-based artist and

Penobscot Basketmaker

Sarah Sockbeson will serve as



"In order for the tradition to survive, it must evolve. I see it as vitally important to acknowledge the traditions of the past and to honor my ancestors that have practiced the art of basketry long before I was alive." --Sarah

a Lunder Institute senior fellow and will be the recipient of the 2021–22 Alfonso Ossorio Creative Production Grant.



Sarah participated in the Maine Arts Commission Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program and was named a Maine Artist Fellowship recipient in 2019.

Sockbeson

Read Full Post

## 2022 Grants Are Open With New Changes

The Maine Arts Commission grant offerings for the coming year have been posted. MAC grants support projects by artists and organizations, as well as operational support for expenses incurred between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023.

We have made some changes inspired by comments from our reviewers, applicants, and the field. Our priority is to **clarify** and **simplify** our services.

### To Clarify:

- We've adjusted our [help documents](#), updated guideline language, and created a new definitions page to help those who are applying.
- We are offering access to recordings of our grant reviews and provide applicants with direct access for reviewer notes and feedback.

### To Simplify:

- We have consolidated our grant programs to four primary grants and fellowship awards.
- Application questions have been simplified.
- We have worked with partners to move grant-making responsibilities to organizations whose work is more closely aligned with the program:

1. **Jane Morrison fund** is now administered at Maine Media Workshops and College.
2. **Apprenticeships** are now administered at Cultural Resources and Maine Crafts Association.
3. **Arts and Humanities Grant** is now administered by the Maine Humanities Council.

Maine organizations, individuals, schools, and municipalities are eligible to apply for

- We have been working to improve the quality and information included in our correspondence with applicants to ensure a clear understanding of our process, reporting requirements, and desire for feedback.
- a Maine Arts Commission grant. For more information on grant opportunities, Maine arts news, events, and opportunities, visit [www.MaineArts.com](http://www.MaineArts.com).

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## Maine Arts News & Opportunities

- [Seeking Artist to Create Works in Allagash Wilderness Waterway this Summer](#)
  - [Waterville Creates is Hiring | Marketing Coordinator + Event Coordinator](#)
  - [Job Openings at Haystack Mountain School of Crafts](#)
  - [Call to Artists: To Be Included in Boothbay Region Sculpture Trail](#)
  - [Maine Film Association - Winter Film Challenge, February 3-6](#)
  - [NEFA's Advisory Council Welcomes Three New Members](#)
  - [Arts & Cultural Alliance of Freeport Greet February with Music, Movement, and Laughter](#)
  - [Haystack Video Highlights Community Response to the Pandemic](#)
  - [Waterfall Arts Receives \\$100,000 Grant](#)
  - [Monteux School and Music Festival Announces New Executive Director](#)
- Get found: be sure to update your directory listing at [MaineArts.com](http://MaineArts.com), as well as at the New England Foundation for the Arts' [CREATIVE GROUND](#).

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## Events & Additional Opportunities

- [Portland Chamber Music Festival: Love Stories - Feb. 14](#)
- [Applications Open for the Jorge and Darlene Perez Prize](#)
- [Camden Opera House Presents: Pete Kilpatrick Band](#)
- [Portland Conservatory Announces Dimensions in Jazz Lineup](#)
- [Group Exhibition featuring Springboard Grant Recipient, Becky Jane Rosen](#)
- [UMF Visiting Writers Series featuring award-winning poet Gibson Fay-LeBlanc, Feb. 10](#)
- [Mellon Foundation Presents: Humanities & The Border: Virtual Conversation](#)
- [Call for Exhibition Proposals: Gallery 263, Cambridge, MA](#)
- [A Walk in the Woods: an Annual Exhibit of Landscape Paintings](#)



